

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8928

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJ: FAVORABLE PRESS REACTION TO FORD-CARAMANLIS MEETING

1. SUMMARY: GREEK PRESS MAY 30 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO BRUSSELS MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIMIN CARAMANLIS CASTING HEADLINES AND NEWS ACCOUNTS IN GENERALLY POSITIVE AND FAVORABLE TERMS. REPORTING STRESSED PRESIDENT FORD'S COUNSELING BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH PRIME MINISTERS TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES AND CAUTIONING THEM AGAINST TAKING STEPS THAT MIGHT LEAD TO MILITARY ACTION. SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY WITH PRESS ARTICLES STRESSING SECRETARY REMARKED THAT THERE IS NO THREAT OF WAR BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AT PRESENT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S BRIEFING IS QUOTED EXTENSIVELY IN ALL NEWSPAPERS AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. ATHENS NEWSPAPER HEADLINES REFLECT FLAVOR OF PUBLIC REACTION TO MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIMIN
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CARAMANLIS: "US AND NATO PRESS TURKEY FOR CONCESSIONS--

CARAMANLIS: EXTREMELY SATISFIED WITH MY TALK WITH PRESIDENT FORD" (KATHIMERINI, CONSERVATIVE); "CATEGORIC DECLARATION AFTER THE TALKS--FORD AND KISSINGER EXCLUDE WAR BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY" BUT ALSO ANOTHER HEADLINE "ON EVE OF CARAMANLIS-DEMIREL MEETING VERY DEEP DIFFERENCES OVER CYPRUS AND CONTINENTAL SHELF"--"CARAMANLIS IS STATING TODAY TERMS FOR GREECE'S RETURN TO NATO" (TO VIMA, LIBERAL); "CARAMANLIS HAS WARNED FORD: SOLUTION OR EXPLOSION--TALKS WERE FRUITLESS YESTERDAY DUE TO TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE"--"PREMIER IS SATISFIED: FORD HAS UNDERSTOOD"--"AMERICAN INITIATIVE FOR BRINGING (GREECE AND TURKEY) NEARER--FORD: FORGET WAR" (AKROPOLIS), CENTER). COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS TOOK TRADITIONAL VIEWPOINT THAT GREECE WAS BEING PRESSURED IN BRUSSELS MEETINGS TO RESUME FULL NATO RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. PRESS REPORTS HIGHLIGHTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD INDICATED FULL UNDERSTANDING FOR GREEK VIEWPOINT AND THAT, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS, THE U.S. AND NATO WERE SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO PRESSURE TURKEY TO ABANDON ITS INTRANSIGENT POSITION. OTHER ACCOUNTS HIGHLIGHTED PRESIDENT'S APPEAL TO GREECE AND TURKEY TO AVOID ANY ACTION THAT COULD LEAD TO A MILITARY CLASH AND REPORTED THAT FOR VARIOUS REASONS FORD'S APPEAL CONTAINS "NUCLEUS OF MORE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEES FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN THE AEGEAN."

4. IN ADDITION TO EXTENSIVE REPORTING OF SECRETARY'S AND HARTMAN'S REMARKS TO NEWSMEN, TWO NEWSPAPERS CARRIED BRIEF EDITORIALS. AKROPOLIS COMMENTED THAT CARAMANLIS ARRIVED AT BRUSSELS WITH CONCILIATORY INTENTIONS YET WITHOUT DISPOSITION TO MAKE CONCESSIONS AT EXPENSE OF NATIONAL INTERESTS. KATHIMERINI IN ITS EDITORIAL URGED WASHINGTON TO PLAY A DECISIVE ROLE IN ARRANGING TURKISH WITHDRAWAL FROM CYPRUS TERRITORY. KATHIMERINI ADDED THAT ATMOSPHERE OF BRUSSELS INDICATES THAT NATO OFFICIALS HAVE SOFTENED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD GREECE, WHICH IS NOW PURSUING MORE INDEPENDENT AND MULTILATERAL FOREIGN POLICY. (NOTE: NEWSPAPER COVERAGE WAS OVERALL UPBEAT AND INFECT REPRESENTS BEST PRESS U.S. HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVED HERE SINCE LAST JULY.) KUBISCH

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